

## Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ONY-00 /010 W  
-----181004Z 120145 /12

P 180920Z APR 77

FM AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7570

S E C R E T SINGAPORE 1654

EA ONLY

FOR EA/IMS - AMBASSADOR HOLDRIDGE FROM CHARGE'

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR, PFOR, SN, US

SUBJECT: MAC FLIGHTS THROUGH SINGAPORE

REF: SINGAPORE 5336 NOV. '76

1. YOU WILL RECALL THAT LAST NOVEMBER ADMIRAL WEISNER SOUGHT AND OBTAINED YOUR CONSENT TO INCREASING THE NUMBER OF C-141 MAC SUPPORT FLIGHTS TO DIEGO GARCIA TO THREE ROUND-TRIPS A MONTH. HE HAS NOW SENT EMBASSY ANOTHER MESSAGE ADDRESSED TO YOU REQUESTING YOUR CONSIDERATION FOR INCREASING FREQUENCY TO ONE ROUND TRIP WEEKLY.

2. FOLLOWING JUSTIFICATION SET FORTH IN HIS MESSAGE:  
" AS YOU KNOW, SINCE WITHDRAWAL FROM THAILAND, THE USG HAS SOUGHT REGULAR MAC FLIGHT TRANSIT OF SINGAPORE TO PERMIT PROCUREMENT OF PERISHABLE PROVISIONS FOR DIEGO GARCIA. AS NOTED REF, PROCUREMENT FROM THE PHILIPPINES IS NOT SATISFACTORY DUE SHORT SHELF LIFE. ALTHOUGH THE PRESENT THREE ROUND TRIP FLIGHTS PER MONTH VIA SINGAPORE PERMIT PROCUREMENT OF SOME DIEGO GARCIA PERISHABLES, AN INCREASE TO WEEKLY

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FREQUENCY WOULD ALLOW FULL REGULARIZATION OF SUPPORT. PROCUREMENT OF MACHINE AND REPAIR PARTS WOULD ALSO BE IMPROVED. PROPOSE WEEKLY FLIGHT FREQUENCY (EVERY WED. AND THURS.) BEGINNING MID-MAY OR JUNE. ANTICIPATE NO ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENT. UNEVENTFUL TRANSIT THUS FAR INDICATE OPERATIONS HAVE BEEN SUFFICIENTLY LOW KEY TO AVOID ATTRACTING UNWANTED ATTENTION. DO NOT PROPOSE ANY

CHANGE TO PRESENT PERSONNEL LEAVE ARRANGEMENT (NO MORE THAN 25 PERSONNEL AT ONE TIME). WILL AWAIT YOUR COMMENTS BEFORE SEEKING WASHINGTON APPROVAL."

3. COMMENT: AS YOU KNOW IT WAS ORIGINALLY UNDERSTOOD THAT MAC SUPPORT FLIGHTS THROUGH SINGAPORE WOULD BE PERMITTED ON AN IRREGULAR BASIS. INCREASING NUMBER FROM THREE ROUND TRIPS A MONTH TO ONE ROUND TRIP PER WEEK EVERY WEDNESDAY AND THURSDAY MAKES THE SCHEDULE VERY REGULAR INDEED. HOWEVER, SINCE C-141 FLIGHTS HAVE NEITHER CAUSED ANY PROBLEMS NOR ATTRACTED ANY PUBLIC ATTENTION, I BELIEVE GOS WOULD AGREE TO THE INCREASE. MOREOVER, IT MIGHT EVEN REASSURE PRIME MINISTER THAT WE HAVE EVERY INTENTION OF MAINTAINING OUR MILITARY PRESENCE IN THE INDIAN OCEAN. FOR THESE REASONS AND SINCE CINCPAC DOES NOT ANTICIPATE ANY FURTHER INCREASE, I THINK WE SHOULD GO ALONG WITH CINCPAC'S REQUEST. WOULD APPRECIATE YOUR VIEWS ASAP.

GRANT

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NNN

## Message Attributes

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**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
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